

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Northstowe Portfolio Holders Meeting

20 January 2011

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RAMPTON DRIFT DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT

Purpose

1. Project Update
2. This not a key decision because this is a report on progress made against the previously approved proposals.

Executive Summary

3. Progress on both parts of the project has been made in accordance with the previously agreed scope of work and the agreed overall programme.
4. Work with the Rampton Drift Homeowners continues, surveys have been carried out on the three pilot homes and detail information prepared and issued to contractors for pricing.
5. The Exhibition delivery team has continued to develop the scheme and has submitted details for planning approval.

Background

6. The capital project consisted of two elements:
 - (a) A retrofit scheme for homes in the existing community of Rampton Drift with a grant of £320,000 from CLG
 - (b) An exhibition and learning facility at the Longstanton Park & Ride site with a grant of £430,000 from CLG
 - (c) It was agreed with CLG that the project should be delivered by end of August 2011

7. The Demonstrator Project update

- (a) The key aim of the project is to identify the costs, effects and benefits of carrying out the refurbishment of the existing houses already within the boundaries of the proposed Eco-town and to encourage and enable the residents to enhance their own properties to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions.
- (b) PRP Architects have carried out measured surveys of the three pilot homes along with thermal imaging and air tests to establish the existing condition.
- (c) The design process has continued to produce detailed information on the work that will be required to implement the full range of measures possible and to produce a tender package of information.
- (d) Legal agreements have been drawn up to regularise the relationship between SCDC and the Homeowners. These agreements are in two parts to cover the design and construction stages and part one is required to be signed before the design work is undertaken on the individual property.

- (e) There has been some slight slippage on the programme due to delays in obtaining all the site investigation information required but tenders have been requested and are to be returned by early February 2011.
- (f) At the time of writing the team to monitor the performance of the homes by the collection and analysis of energy usage and carbon emissions data has not been appointed but it is expected that this will take place shortly.
- (g) Contact with local Secondary and Primary Schools has been made and discussions commenced to involve them in the project as far as practicable.
- (h) The detailed design for the individual homes has commenced with interviews with homeowners underway.
- (i) The work on site is still expected to commence in the first homes at the end of March 2011 and to be completed by the end of August 2011.
- (j) A presentation by PRP of the proposals was given to the Northstowe Parish Forum meeting held on 12 January 2011.
- (k) The project is on time and is expected to be carried out within budget.

8. The Exhibition Centre update

- (a) The concept scheme was developed and submitted to SCDC Planning Department for approval on 7 December 2010
- (b) The Architect Rees Pryer and the Contractor Jackson Construction are working to produce detailed design information to confirm the design proposals and the cost.
- (c) Work on site is expected to commence in March 2011 and be complete by early September 2011.
- (d) The project is proceeding in accordance with revised programme and is expected to be carried out within budget.

Implications

9. The implications identified below are described as follows

- (a) Financial
 - (i) The grant now received will allow the project aims to be met.
- (b) Legal
 - (i) A form of agreement is required between the Homeowners and the Council to ensure the terms and conditions of the grant and the aims of the project are met
- (c) Risk Management
 - (i) Risks will be identified, managed and safe guarded against by the range of agreements made and the contracts placed for the works.
- (d) Equal Opportunities
 - (i) The project plan will allow every eligible resident of Rampton Drift to apply to take part.
 - (ii) All contracts for the work will be let following the approved tendering procedure
- (e) Climate Change
 - (i) The whole aim of the project is to reduce energy consumption and to reduce carbon emissions in the existing housing stock

10. Financial	The award of the grant has allowed the project to proceed
Legal	Agreements are being prepared for signature
Staffing	None
Risk Management	Covered by the agreement
Equal Opportunities	Provided by the proposed project plan
Climate Change	Good impact

Consultations

11. Cambridgeshire Horizons, Cambridgeshire County Council, Go East, Renewables East, the Portfolio Holder for Northstowe and Officers of South Cambridgeshire District Council

Effect on Strategic Aims

12. The report illustrates how the previously agreed decision of SCDC is being taken forward. There is no effect on the Strategic aims agreed by Council.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Northstowe Portfolio Holder's Meeting 16 December 2010

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